

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 EB-08 L-03
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 ACDA-07 FEA-01 /098 R

DRAFTED BY OES/NET/IM:MPROCHNIK/TREASURY:BOWDEN
APPROVED BY OES/NET/IM:MPROCHNIK
TREASURY - B MOSER/BOWDEN
NEA/ARP - C CECIL
ERDA/IAI - H JAFFE/ICORD
EB/ORF/FSE - B RAMSAY
-----120227Z 003294 /72-70
P 112349Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH, ENGR, SA

SUBJECT: JEC PROJECT IN SOLAR ENERGY

REFS: A. JIDDA 0851 B. PARIS 3062 C. JIDDA 0811

1. WE ARE CONSIDERING PROPOSING TO SAUDIS A PROGRAM OF
COOPERATION IN SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT UNDER
JEC AUSPICES.

2. OUR PRESENT THINKING IS THAT SAUDIS WOULD SET UP
SPECIAL FUND WITHIN JEC TRUST ACCOUNT AT TREASURY TO HELP
FINANCE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND/OR DEMONSTRATION IN
AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. SPECIAL FUND WOULD BE \$50 MILLION
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TO BE METERED OUT AT RATE OF \$10 MILLION PER YEAR OVER FIVE
YEAR LIFE OF PROJECT AGREEMENT. (FYI - WE THINK AMOUNT
ANNOUNCED FOR PROJECT MUST BE LARGE ENOUGH TO ACTUALLY MAKE
REAL CONTRIBUTION AND ALSO TO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC
IMPACT.) MONIES WOULD BE AWARDED UNDER CONTRACT SYSTEM
NOW USED BY ERDA WITH SAUDIS CONCURRING IN SPECIFIC TOPICS
TO BE COVERED. SOME PORTION OF RESEARCH OR DEMONSTRATION

PROJECTS WOULD DOUBTLESS BE LOCATED IN SAUDI ARABIA AND ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE FOR SAUDIS TO SHARE IN PATENTS RELATED TO NEW TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED UNDER AGREEMENT.

3. SPECIFIC TOPIC AREAS TO BE COVERED WOULD BE SUBJECT OF LATER US-SAUDI DISCUSSIONS BUT WE CURRENTLY FAVOR COOPERATION IN AREAS THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO ERDA PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AS WELL AS MEET SAUDI INTERESTS. SUCH AN ORIENTATION WOULD FAVOR RESEARCH THAT IS NOT APPROACHING COMMERCIAL FEASIBILITY OR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS THAT ARE ON A LARGER SCALE THAN CURRENTLY ENVISAGED BY ERDA.

4. AMBASSADOR ALIREZA HAS DISCUSSED IDEA OF COOPERATION IN SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH WITH NASA WHICH HAS IN TURN REFERRED AMBASSADOR TO ERDA AND STATE. LETTER AWAITS ALIREZA'S RETURN PROPOSING MEETING WITH ERDA, TREASURY AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS. WE ARE UNSURE WHETHER ALIREZA'S APPROACH IS RESULT HIS OWN PERSONAL INTEREST IN SUBJECT OR RESULT OF SAG INSTRUCTIONS. GENERAL SAUDI INTEREST IN SUCH COOPERATION, HOWEVER APPEARS INDICATED BY REFERENCES IN SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN FHAD-KISSINGER 1974 COMMUNIQUE SETTING UP JEC AND ALSO DURING VISIT PRINCE MOHAMMED AL FAISAL. AMBASSADOR ALIREZA'S MENTION THAT DIRIYYA FOUNDATION, AN ORGANIZATION ATTACHED TO KING FAISAL FOUNDATION, WILL BE MAKING ENERGY RESEARCH GRANTS, AND REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED OF SAUDI DISCUSSIONS THIS TOPIC WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ARE FURTHER EVIDENCE OF SAUDI RECEPTIVITY TO SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT.

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EMBASSY ACTION REQUESTED:

1. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY REACTION TO CONCEPT AND APPROACH SUGGESTED PARAS 2 & 3 ABOVE.

2. INFORMATION PROVIDED REFS A AND C VERY HELPFUL. DEPARTMENT WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE AIRGRAM PROMISED REF A PARA 6, INCLUDING ANY INFORMATION ON JAPANESE ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY CONSIDER INFORMING APPROPRIATE SAUDI OFFICIALS OF OUR PLANS TO MEET WITH ALIREZA IN NEAR FUTURE IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PROVIDING HIM GUIDANCE ON OFFICIAL SAUDI POSITION AND POSSIBLE GENERAL AREAS OF COOPERATION. (IF GENERAL SAUDI REACTION IS POSITIVE, WE WOULD EXPECT TO SUGGEST VISIT OF U.S. TEAM OF EXPERTS OR VISIT BY SAUDI TEAM TO U.S. TO PRECEED FINAL SELECTION OF AREAS OF COOPERATION.)

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOLAR POWER, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE055164
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MPROCHNIK/TREASURY:BOWDEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770085-0333
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770367/aaaacgyy.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f1a124b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JIDDA 851
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3129914
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JEC PROJECT IN SOLAR ENERGY
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, SA
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f1a124b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009